

Activity Suggestions for Early Childhood Classrooms to Build on the Hospital Familiarisation Program Incursion

Emergency Room

- Set up an Emergency Room with a reception and waiting area.
- Have children make posters and books about various health and safety issues to put in the waiting area. Eg; Germs and handwashing, covering your mouth when you cough, using hand sanitiser, preventing and treating burns etc.
- Make up notes on a clipboard for children to write up a medical history and the reason they need medical care. Use pictures on charts for younger children.
- Older children can triage patients and decide which medical conditions need to take priority to treat.
- Have medical supplies such as band-aids, bandages, tweezers, cotton balls, stethoscopes and masks for children to use.

X-Ray Department

- Make an x-ray area with machines made from cardboard boxes and tubes.
- Use a desk as an x-ray bed.
- Use a lightbox or put x-rays on the windows for children to view and diagnose broken bones.

Children's Ward

- Set up desks with pillows to use as beds.
- Have children make name plates to put above beds.
- Have a clipboard for children to make notes on and fill out observation charts. Use illustrated charts with checklists for younger children.
- Have role play thermometer and blood pressure cuff for nurses to do observations on patients.
- Use play food for children to deliver meals on trays for patients to eat in bed.

Nursery

- Set up a nursery with baby dolls.
- Have children make name bracelets and bracelets to use on the babies.
- Provide baby bottles for children to feed the babies.
- Have a nappy changing area and baby bath for children to use.
- Set up scales for children to weigh babies.
- Have a clipboard for children to make notes on and fill out observation charts. Use illustrated charts with checklists for younger children.
- Have role play thermometer and blood pressure cuff for nurses to do observations on patients.

Pharmacy

- Set up a pharmacy with various medicine boxes, medicine bottles, creams, eye drops, asthma inhalers and spacers. If possible get medicine boxes with Braille on them. Most medications for diabetes have instructions written in Braille. Explain to children how blind people read Braille.
- Make prescription pads for doctors to use in the emergency department, which can be 'filled' in the pharmacy.
- Teach children about medicine doses so the pharmacist can discuss how the patient needs to take the medicine (always measured and given by adult).

Pathology Department

- Have syringes (without needle) and alcohol swabs for children to roll play blood tests.
- Have children make sticky name labels to label the 'blood'.
- Set up microscopes with easy to view slides for the children to view 'blood'.
- If possible, organise for a pathology company to process cultures on agar plates that children have coughed on or put their hands on before and after washing their hands to demonstrate how infection can spread.

Physiotherapy Department

- Make hand weights out of recycled objects such as cardboard tubes.
- Provide exercise balls, resistance bands and different size balls for children to use.
- Hire a wheelchair and crutches for children to use.
- Make a skeleton out of newspaper and papier mache or borrow one from a resource centre.
- Put a poster or skeletal muscles on the wall.
- Use a desk as a treatment/ massage bed.

Audiology Department

- Have a chart diagram of the ear on the wall.
- Borrow an eye anatomical model for the children to interact with.
- Use play dough on the anatomical model to demonstrate how some people can get excess wax in the ear canal can cause hearing problems.
- Set up an audio table with headphones. Have an illustrated checklist of different sounds for children to listen to and check off the list.
- Discuss with the children how continuous exposure to loud sounds and music can cause future hearing loss.

Ophthalmology Department

- Have an eyechart with different size letters for children to perform vision tests. Have a paddle of wooden spoon for children to cover one eye when doing tests.

- Use a chart with illustrations for children who don't have letter recognition.
- Use coloured cellophane to make different paddles for children to look through.
- Download a blue/green colour blindness image for children to use for testing
- Put a laminating pocket through the laminator with no paper or card in it. Cut it into pieces for children to look through to experience poor vision. The more pieces use together, the 'worse' vision they will have.
- Children can make posters about eye health and safety to put on the wall.
- Borrow an eye anatomical model from a resource centre for children to interact with.
- Have children make and decorate different styles of glasses frames from cardboard or pipe-cleaners to display and try on.